



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:30 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - January 22, 2002

- ***In the West***, precipitation is overspreading ***Washington and Oregon***, signaling the return of a favorably wet weather pattern. From mid-November to early January, frequently heavy rain and snow eased long-term drought in ***northern California, the Great Basin, and the Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, dry, unusually warm weather continues to stress winter wheat and leave the crop exposed to gusty winds and potential cold outbreaks. Today's high temperatures are forecast to exceed 70 degrees F in ***western Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild, dry weather and a patchy snow cover are maintaining low levels of livestock stress, favoring dormant soft red and white winter wheat, and aiding off-season fieldwork.
- ***In the South***, a few showers are developing from the ***Delta westward***, where most of the lowland flooding that was induced by heavy rainfall from late November to mid-December has subsided.

Outlook: During the next few days, a moisture-laden weather system will soak the ***South and East***, bringing additional drought relief to the ***southern Atlantic region*** but causing some renewed lowland flooding in the ***Delta***. In contrast, mostly dry conditions will persist on the ***Plains***. Meanwhile, colder air will overspread the ***West***, resulting in snow across the ***Pacific Northwest*** and possible frost and near-freezing temperatures (near 32 degrees F) as far south as ***California's San Joaquin Valley***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 27-31 calls for a warm weather pattern across the ***eastern half of the nation*** and below-normal temperatures in the ***West***, accompanied by beneficial precipitation. In contrast, unfavorably dry weather is expected on the ***central and southern Plains*** and across the ***southern Atlantic region***. Meanwhile, above-normal precipitation is forecast from the ***Delta northward into the Great Lakes States***, with snow possible in the latter region.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)